

BEST COPY
AVAILABLE

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
8 June 2005

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session

Agenda item 90 (a)

**Operational activities for development: operational activities
for development of the United Nations system**

**Letter dated 11 May 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of
Indonesia and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the
President of the General Assembly**

The Asian-African Summit and Golden Jubilee of the 1955 Asian-African Conference, held in Jakarta and Bandung from 22 to 24 April 2005, represented a historic event marking the establishment of a new strategic partnership between Asia and Africa.

The Asian-African Summit resulted in the Declaration on the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership, the Joint Ministerial Statement on the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership Plan of Action and the Joint Asian-African Leaders' Statement on Tsunamis, Earthquakes and Other Natural Disasters (see annex).

The Summit also represents a significant milestone in further strengthening South-South cooperation and serves as one of the building blocks in strengthening the United Nations multilateral system.

In view of the importance of South-South cooperation and on behalf of our Governments in our capacity as co-chairs of the Asian-African Summit, we have the honour to submit herewith the outcomes of the Summit and request that the present letter and its annex be issued as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 90 (a).

(Signed) Rezlan Ishar Jenie

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

(Signed) Dumisani Shadrack Kumalo

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 11 May 2005 from the Permanent Representatives of Indonesia and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

**DECLARATION
ON
THE NEW ASIAN-AFRICAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

We, the Leaders of Asian and African countries, have gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22-23 April 2005 for the Asian-African Summit to reinvigorate the Spirit of Bandung as enshrined in the Final Communiqué of the 1955 Asian-African Conference and to chart the future cooperation between our two continents towards a New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP).

We reiterate our conviction that the Spirit of Bandung, the core principles of which are solidarity, friendship and cooperation, continues to be a solid, relevant and effective foundation for fostering better relations among Asian and African countries and resolving global issues of common concern. The 1955 Bandung Conference remains as a beacon in guiding the future progress of Asia and Africa.

We note with satisfaction that since the 1955 Conference, Asian and African countries have attained significant political advances. We have successfully combated the scourge of colonialism and consistently fought racism. In particular, the abolishment of apartheid represents a milestone in Asian-African cooperation and we reaffirm our continued determination to eradicate racism and all forms of discrimination. As a result of our efforts over the last fifty years, we are all independent, sovereign and equal nations striving for the promotion of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. However, having made these political gains, we are concerned that we have not yet attained commensurate progress in the social and economic spheres. We recognize the need to continuously strengthen the process of nation and state-building, as well as social integration.

We remain committed to the principle of self-determination as set forth in the Final Communiqué of the 1955 Bandung Conference and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In particular, we express our abhorrence that, fifty years since the 1955 Bandung Conference, the Palestinian people remain deprived of their right to independence.

We remain steadfast in our support for the Palestinian people and the creation of a viable and sovereign Palestinian state, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

We emphasize the importance of multilateral approaches to international relations and the need for countries to strictly abide by the principles of international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations. As Asia and Africa represent the majority in the community of nations, we reaffirm the need to support and strengthen multilateralism in order to address global issues, including reforming multilateral institutions.

We recognize that the current global situation and the prevailing conditions in Asia and Africa necessitate the need to actively pursue a common view and collective action to ensure the equitable sharing of the benefits of globalization. We are determined to meet the internationally agreed targets and goals aimed at poverty eradication, development and growth, and underline the necessity for all parties to honour their commitments in this regard. We emphasize the importance of enhancing cooperation with all regions.

We underline the importance of dialogue among civilizations to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for religious, cultural, language and racial diversities as well as gender equality.

We acknowledge the positive development of intra-regional/sub-regional integration in both continents. Nevertheless, continent-wide inter-regional cooperation among the two continents needs to be developed. We are convinced that cooperation between sub-regional organizations, through sharing experiences and best practices, can propel growth and sustainable development.

We underline the importance of bringing the regions closer together by utilizing the advantages derived from the commonalities and diversity of, as well as the new and encouraging developments in, both regions. We emphasize both the collective responsibilities and the important role of all stakeholders in exploring innovative and concrete ways and means to strengthen cooperation between Asia and Africa.

In this regard, we acknowledge the importance of complementing and building upon existing initiatives that link the two continents, *inter alia* Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), China-Africa Cooperation Forum (CACF), India-Africa Cooperation, Indonesia-Brunei Darussalam sponsored Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, Vietnam-Africa Forum, and the Smart Partnership Initiative and the Langkawi International Dialogue. We stress the importance of streamlining and aligning existing initiatives for coherence and maximum benefit and to avoid duplication.

We acknowledge the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the African Union's programme for poverty eradication, socio-economic development and growth and accept it as the framework for engagement with Africa. We express our support for the implementation of NEPAD.

We underscore the urgency of promoting economic development in the Asian and African regions, as stipulated in the 1955 Bandung Conference. We stress that poverty and under-development, gender mainstreaming, communicable diseases, environmental degradation, natural disasters, drought and desertification, digital divide, inequitable market access, and foreign debt, remain as issues of common concern which call for our closer cooperation and collective action.

We envision an Asian-African region at peace with itself and with the world at large working together as a concert of nations in harmony, non-exclusive, bonded in dynamic partnership and conscious of our historical ties and cultural heritage. We visualize an affluent Asian-African region characterized by equitable growth, sustainable development as well as a common determination to enhance the quality of life and well-being of our people. We further envisage a caring Asian-African society where the people live in stability, prosperity, dignity and free from the fear of violence, oppression and injustice.

To this end, we hereby declare, as an expression of our new political will, the establishment of a New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) as a framework to build a bridge between Asia and Africa covering three broad areas of partnership, namely political solidarity, economic cooperation, and

socio-cultural relations. The strategic partnership provides a momentum in achieving peace, prosperity and progress, and will be based on the following principles and ideals:

1. The Ten Principles of Bandung of the 1955 Asian - African Conference;
2. Recognition of diversity between and within the regions, including different social and economic systems and levels of development;
3. Commitment to open dialogue, based on mutual respect and benefit;
4. Promotion of non-exclusive cooperation by involving all stakeholders;
5. Attainment of practical and sustainable cooperation based on comparative advantage, equal partnership, common ownership and vision, as well as a firm and shared conviction to address common challenges;
6. Promotion of sustainable partnership by complementing and building upon existing regional/sub-regional initiatives in Asia and Africa;
7. Promotion of a just, democratic, transparent, accountable and harmonious society;
8. Promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development;
9. Promotion of collective and unified efforts in multilateral fora.

The NAASP shall emphasize the need to promote practical cooperation between the two continents in areas such as trade, industry, investment, finance, tourism, information and communication technology, energy, health, transportation, agriculture, water resources and fisheries.

The NAASP shall also address issues of common concern such as, armed conflict, weapons of mass destruction, transnational organized crimes and terrorism, which are fundamental to ensuring peace, stability, and security.

We are determined to prevent conflict and resolve disputes by peaceful means and endeavor to explore innovative mechanisms for confidence building and dispute resolution as well as for post- conflict peace building.

The NAASP shall promote human resource development, enhanced capacity building and technical cooperation in order to create an enabling environment for the betterment of the regions.

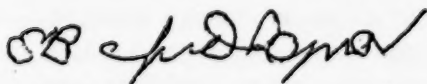
We resolve that the sustainability of the NAASP shall be conducted through three tiers of interaction: an intergovernmental forum; sub-regional organizations; and people-to-people interaction, particularly business, academia, and civil society.

We are determined to develop an institutionalized process of the NAASP through convening: a Summit of Heads of State/Government every four years; a Ministerial Meeting of Foreign Ministers every two years; and Sectoral Ministerial and other Technical Meetings when deemed necessary. A Business Summit in conjunction with the Summit of Heads of State/Government will be held every four years.

We pledge to our peoples our joint determination and commitment to bringing the NAASP into reality by implementing concrete actions for the benefit and prosperity of our peoples.

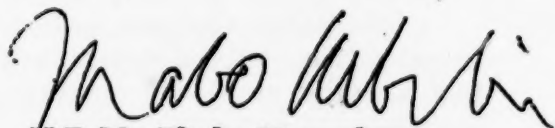
Done in Bandung, Indonesia, on the Twenty-fourth of April in the year Two Thousand and Five, in conjunction with the Commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the Asian-African Conference of 1955.

For the Republic of Indonesia



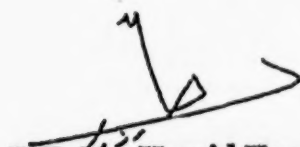
H.E. Dr. H. Susilo Bambang
Yudhoyono
President

For the Republic of South Africa



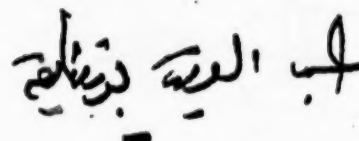
H.E. Mr. Thabo Mvuyelwa
Mbeki
President

For the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



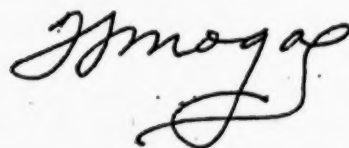
H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai
President

For the People's Democratic
Republic of Algeria



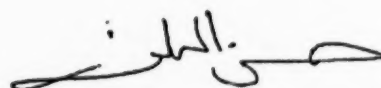
H. E. Mr. Abdelaziz Bouteflika
President

For the Republic of Botswana



H.E. Mr. Festus Gontebanye Mogae
President

For Brunei Darussalam



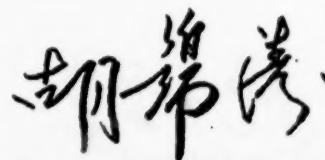
**His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal
Bolkiah**
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam

For the Kingdom of Cambodia



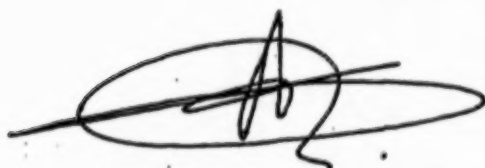
H. E. Samdech HUN SEN
Prime Minister

For the People's Republic of China



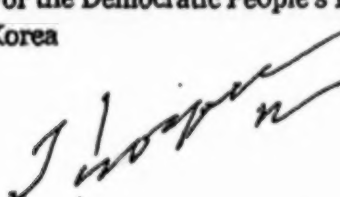
H. E. Mr. Hu Jintao
President

For the Union of the Comoros



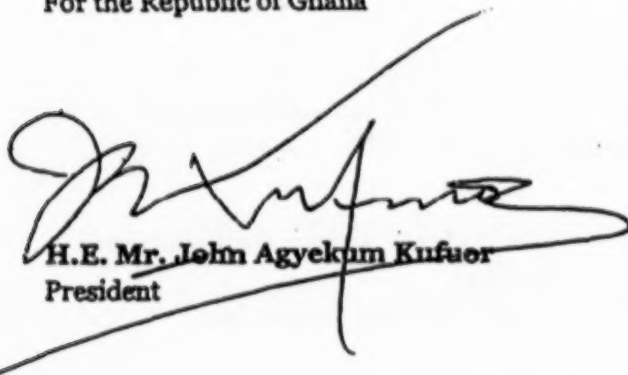
H. E. Mr. AZALI Assoumani
President

For the Democratic People's Republic of Korea



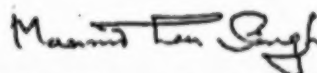
H. E. Mr. Kim Yong Nam
President of the Presidium of the Supreme
People's Assembly

For the Republic of Ghana



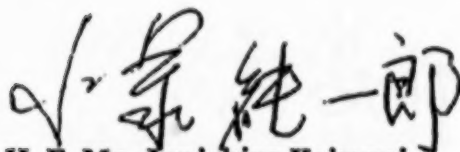
H.E. Mr. John Agyekum Kufuor
President

For the Republic of India



H.E. Dr. Manmohan Singh
Prime Minister

For Japan



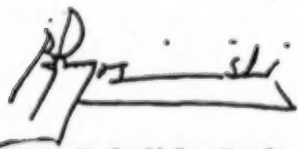
H. E. Mr. Junichiro Koizumi
Prime Minister

For the Lao People's Democratic Republic



H. E. Mr. Bounnhang Vorachith
Prime Minister

For of the Kingdom of Lesotho



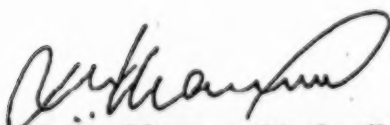
**Rt. Hon. Pakalitha Bethuel
Mosisili, M.P.
Prime Minister**

For the Republic of Madagascar



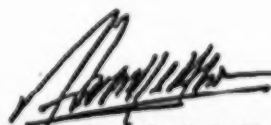
**H. E. Mr. Marc Ravalomanana
President**

For the Republic of Malawi



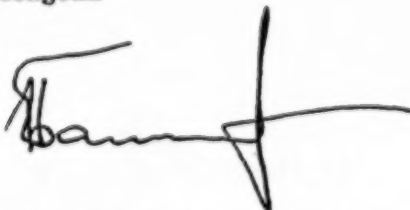
**H. E. Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika
President**

For Malaysia



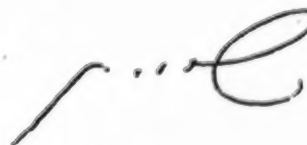
**H. E. Dato' Seri Abdullah Ahmad
Badawi
Prime Minister**

For Mongolia



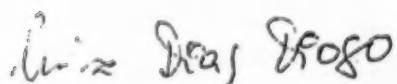
**H. E. Mr. Natsagiin Bagabandi
President**

For the Kingdom of Morocco



**H.E. Mr. Driss Jettou
Prime Minister**

For the Republic of Mozambique



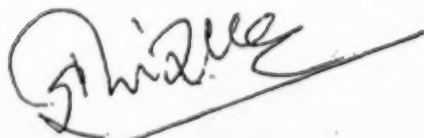
H. E. Dra. Luisa Dias Dlogo
Prime Minister

For the Union of Myanmar



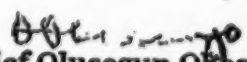
H. E. Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and
Development Council

For the Kingdom of Nepal



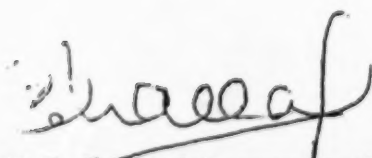
**His Majesty Gyanendra Bir Bikram
Shah Dev**
King of Nepal

For the Federal Republic of Nigeria



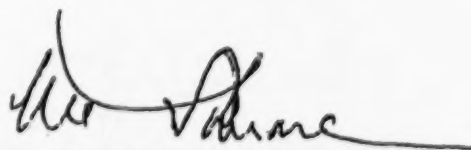
H. E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR
President

For the Islamic Republic of Pakistan



H. E. General Pervez Musharraf
President

For Independent State of Papua New Guinea



**Rt. Hon. Sir Michael T. Somare GCMG,
CH, KSt.J**
Prime Minister

For the Republic of the Philippines



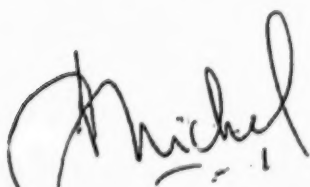
H. E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
President

For the Republic of Korea



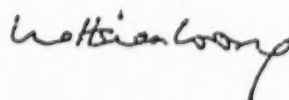
H. E. Mr. Lee Hae-chan
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Seychelles



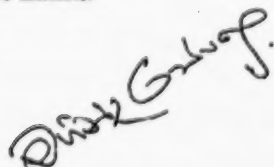
H. E. Mr. James Alix Michel
President

For the Republic of Singapore



H. E. Mr. Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister

For the Democratic Socialist Republic of
Sri Lanka



Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Sudan



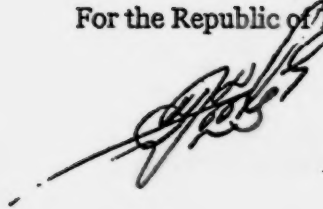
H. E. Omer Hassan Ahmed El-Bashir
President

For the Kingdom of Swaziland



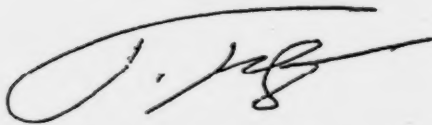
**The Right Honorable Absalom Thembu
Dlamini**
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Tajikistan



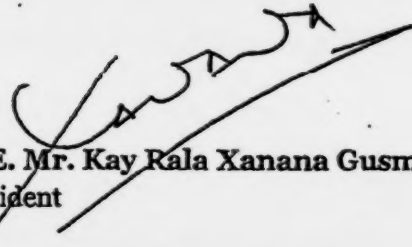
**H. E. Mr. Emomali Sharipovich
Rahmonov**
President

For the Kingdom of Thailand



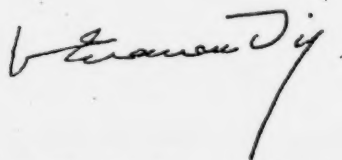
H. E. Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra
Prime Minister

For the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste



H. E. Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão
President

For the Republic of Tunisia



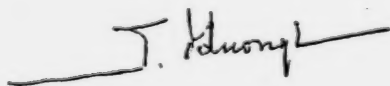
H. E. Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi
Prime Minister

For the Republic of Vanuatu



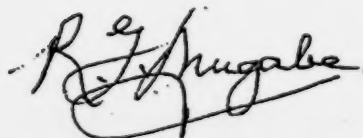
H. E. Mr. Kalkot Mataskelekele
President

For the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam



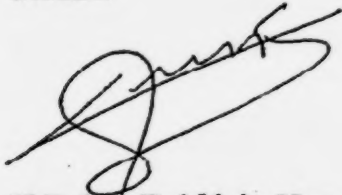
H. E. Mr. Tran Duc Luong
President

For the Republic of Zimbabwe



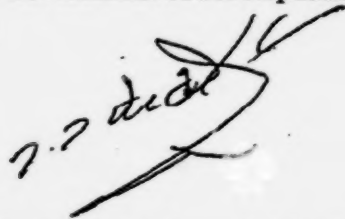
H. E. Mr. Robert Gabriel Mugabe
President

For the Government of the Republic of
Burundi



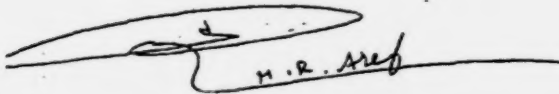
H.E. Mr. Frédéric Ngenzebuhoro
Vice President

For the Government of the Republic of
Gabon



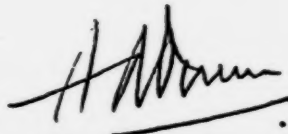
H.E. Mr. Didjob Divungi Di Ndinge
Vice President

For the Government of the Islamic Republic
of Iran



H.E. Mr. Mohammad Reza Aref
First Vice President

For the Government of the Republic of
Mauritius



H. E. Mr. Abdool Raouf Bundhun
Vice President

For the Government of the Sultanate of
Oman



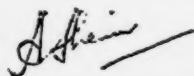
**His Highness Sayyid As'ad
bin Tarik Al-Said**
Representative of His Majesty the Sultan of
Oman

For the Government of the Arab Republic of
Syria



**H. E. Dr. Mohammad Zouheir
Masharka**
Vice President

For the Government of the United Republic
of Tanzania

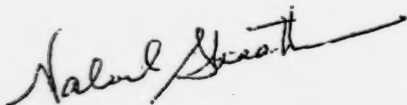


H.E. Dr. Ali Mohammed Shein
Vice President

For the Government of the Republic of
Azerbaijan

H. E. Mr. Yagub Eyyubov
First Deputy Prime Minister

For the Government of the State of Palestine



H.E. Dr. Nabeel Shaath
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Information

For the People's Republic of Bangladesh



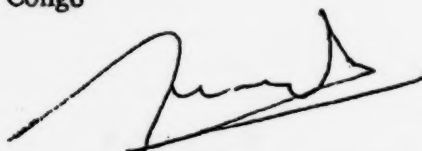
H. E. Mr. M. Morshed Khan, M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Democratic
Republic of the Congo



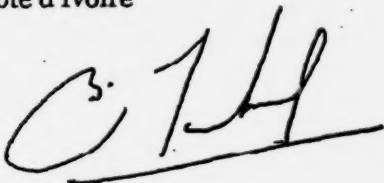
H. E. Mr. Raymond Ramazani Baya
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic
Republic of the Congo

For the Government of the Republic of the
Congo



H. E. Mr. Rodolphe Adada
Minister of State, Minister of Foreign Affairs
and Francophonie

For the Government of the Republic of
Cote d'Ivoire



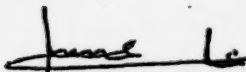
H.E. Bamba Mamadou
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Arab Republic of
Egypt



H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the State of Eritrea

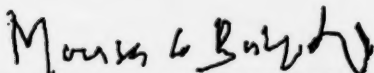


H.E. Mr. Ali Said Abdella
Minister of Foreign Affairs

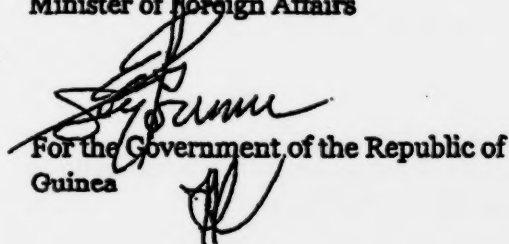
For the Government of the Federal
Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

H.E. Mr. Seyoum Mesfin
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of
Gambia

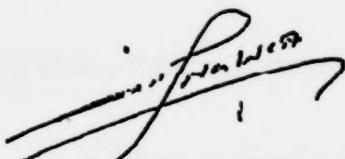


H.E. Mr. Mousa Gibril Bala Gaye
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs



H.E. Mrs. Sidibé Fatoumata Kaba
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of
Kenya



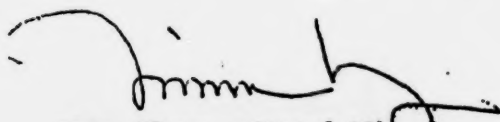
Hon. Amb. Chirau Ali Mwakwere, M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the State of Kuwait



**His Highness Sheikh Dr. Mohammad
Sabah Al Salem Al-Sabah**
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of
Kuwait

For the Government of the Republic of
Liberia



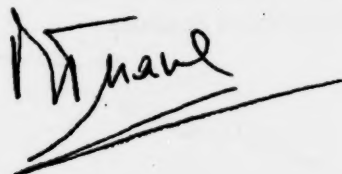
Hon. Thomas Yayah Nimely
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Great Socialist
People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya



**H. E. Abdulrahman Muhammad
Shalgam**
Secretary of the General People's Committee
for Foreign Liaison and International
Cooperation

For the Government of the Republic of Mali



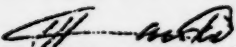
H.E. Mr. Moctar Ouane
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation

For the Government of the Islamic Republic
of Mauritania



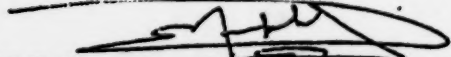
H.E. Mr. Mohamed Vall Ould Bellal
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

For the Government of the Republic of
Namibia



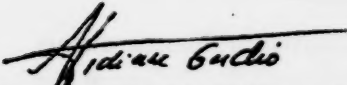
H.E. Mr. Marco Hausiku, M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of
Rwanda



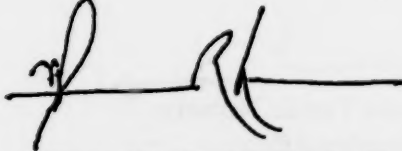
H.E. Hon. Dr. Charles Murigande
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

For the Government of the Republic of
Senegal



H.E. Dr. Cheikh Tidiane Gadio
Senior Minister, Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of Senegal

For the Government of the Republic of
Sierra Leone



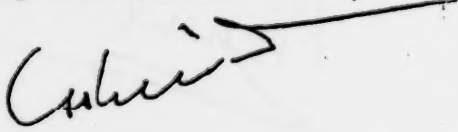
Hon. Alhajie Momodu Koroma
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation

For the Government of the Solomon Islands



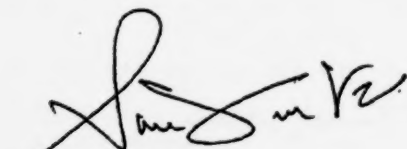
Hon. Laurie Chan
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Transitional Federal Government of
the Republic of Somalia



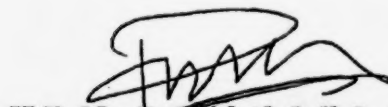
H.E. Mr. Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of
Uganda



Hon. Sam Kutesa
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the United Arab
Emirates



H.E. Mr. Rashid Abdullah Al Noaimi
Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of Yemen



H.E. Dr. Abu Bakar Al-Qirbi
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Kingdom of
Bahrain



H.E. Sheikh Ali bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa
Minister of Transportation

For the Government of the Republic of Benin



H.E. Mr. Pierre Osho
State Minister in charge of National Defense

For the Government of the Republic of
Maldives



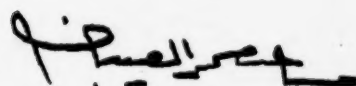
Hon. Abdulla Hameed
Minister of Atolls Development

For the Government of the State of Qatar



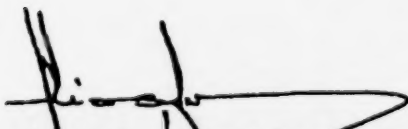
H.E. Hamad bin Naser Al-Thani
Minister of State

For the Government of the Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia



**H.E. Dr. Musa'id bin Muhammad
Al-Ieban**
State Minister

For the Government of the Republic of Turkey



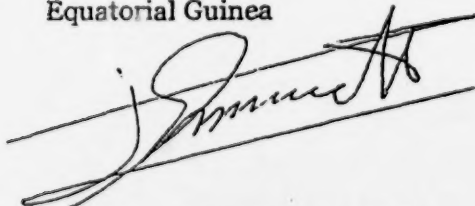
H. E. Mr. Ali Coskun
Minister of Industry and Trade

For the Government of the Republic of
Zambia



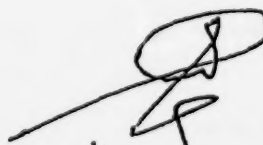
Hon. Ng'andu P. Magande
Minister of Finance and National Planning

For the Government of Republic of
Equatorial Guinea



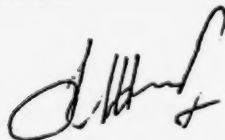
H.E. Mr. Jose Esono Micha
Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs,
International Cooperation and Francophone

For the Government of the Republic of Iraq



H.E. Mr. T. Hamid Al Bayati
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

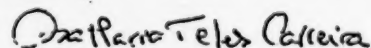
For the Government of the Republic of
Kazakhstan



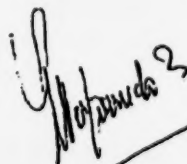
H.E. Mr. Rapil Zhoshybayev
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Government of the Republic of
Angola

H.E. Dr. Ana Maria Teles Carreira
Ambassador of the Republic of Angola in
New Delhi



For the Government of Burkina Faso



H.E. Dr. Michael Kafando
Permanent Representative to the United
Nations

For the Government of the Republic of
Lebanon



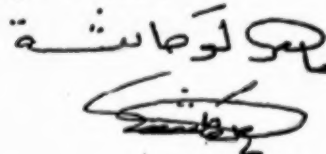
H.E. Mr. Hassan Muslimani
Ambassador of the Republic of Lebanon in
Jakarta

For the Government of the Republic of
Niger



H.E. Mr. Boubakar Adamou
Head Department of America, Asia and
Oceania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Cooperation and African Integration

For the Government of the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan



H.E. Mr. Maher Lukasha
Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of
the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
in Jakarta

**JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
ON
THE NEW ASIAN-AFRICAN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
PLAN OF ACTION**

We, the Ministers of the Asian-African countries, assembled in Jakarta on 20 April 2005 for the Asian-African Ministerial Meeting:

Reaffirming our commitment to the Spirit and Principles of Bandung as enshrined in the Final Communiqué of the 1955 Asian-African Conference and the Charter of the United Nations;

Acknowledging the need to build a bridge between Asia and Africa based on shared vision and conviction, solidarity, equal partnership, common ownership, mutual respect, interest and strength;

Emphasizing the importance of complementing and building upon existing initiatives as well as internationally agreed development targets and goals emanating from various Conferences and Summits *inter alia* Millennium Development Goals, Monterrey Consensus, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and Doha Development Agenda;

Recognizing the need to enhance technical cooperation and capacity building as well as human resource development to address challenges of common concern;

Emphasizing the prominent and leading role of all Asian and African regional and sub-regional organizations in the NAASP, and the supportive role of regional development banks and United Nations regional economic commissions in promoting Asian-African partnership;

Desiring to realize mutually beneficial areas of cooperation that are pragmatic, structured, and sustainable;

To these ends, we shall strive to implement the following concrete measures in three broad areas of partnership, to which we assign special significance:

A. POLITICAL SOLIDARITY

1. **Promoting** conditions essential for greater political cooperation and confidence building, conducive to the attainment of peace and stability in both regions;
2. **Striving** to prevent conflict and resolve disputes by peaceful means including through enhanced dialogue, preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction;
3. **Encouraging** regional, sub-regional and national mechanisms for preventing conflict and promoting political stability and supporting efforts in peace keeping and post-conflict peace-building;
4. **Supporting** the peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine and a lasting peace in the Middle East and calling upon the Quartet and the international community to ensure the implementation of the Roadmap;
5. **Strengthening** democratic institutions and popular participation by, among others, sharing of best practices and experiences;
6. **Promoting and protecting** human rights and fundamental freedoms through dialogue and capacity building;
7. **Strengthening** international and inter-regional cooperation to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in full conformity with international law as well as to address its underlying causes;
8. **Combating** transnational crimes in all its dimensions *inter-alia* money laundering, illicit trafficking of drugs, small arms and light weapons as well as trafficking in persons particularly women and children, through capacity building among law enforcement agencies in the two regions;

9. **Preventing and combating corruption** through promoting good governance and a culture of integrity based on the rule of law;
10. **Promoting the reform of the United Nations** with the aims of strengthening multilateralism, reinforcing the role of the United Nations in maintaining and promoting international peace, security and sustainable development, as well as ensuring greater participation for and share among Asian and African countries in its decision-making processes.

B. ECONOMIC COOPERATION

1. **Supporting efforts to create an enabling international economic environment**, which is critical for Asian and African countries to acquire the requisite capacities to successfully compete and fully benefit from globalization;
2. **Resolving the issue of poverty in a collective and comprehensive fashion** through mobilizing resources for sustained economic growth, resolving debt issues, developing internationally agreed innovative financial mechanisms, capital market cooperation, ensuring flows of international development assistance, improving market access and addressing unfair and trade-distorting subsidies, addressing weak and unstable commodity prices, and enhancing flows of investment;
3. **Promoting and facilitating direct trade and investment between Asia and Africa;**
4. **Maximizing the benefits of trade liberalization** through improved market access for products of export interest to Asian and African countries, including by striving to provide voluntary non-reciprocal market access for Asian-African Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
5. **Building effective and targeted technical assistance and capacity building programs** to allow Asian and African countries to integrate into the world economy and enhance competitiveness;

6. Striving for sustainable development, food security, and rural development through enhanced cooperation in the areas of agriculture, water resources, fishery, and forestry;
7. Maximizing the benefits arising from the protection of intellectual property rights by *inter alia* advancing the protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and folklore, as well as from flexibilities provided by trade related intellectual property rights agreements;
8. Strengthening cooperation among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Asian and African Countries by means of education and skill enhancement as well as sharing best practices and experiences;
9. Strengthening cooperation in narrowing the digital divide, creating digital opportunities, and supporting initiatives such as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) aimed at harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for development;
10. Fostering research and development and the sharing of relevant technologies, including nanotechnology, biotechnology, and vaccine research;
11. Promoting the development of sustainable energy resources and technologies including geothermal, biogas, solar, hydro-power, and nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;
12. Undertaking joint exploration of the Indian Ocean, including marine resources, marine scientific research, safety of navigation and communication at sea, and search and rescue operations, to further bridge the divide between the two regions;
13. Encouraging the establishment of an Asia-Africa Business Forum to enable greater contact among private sectors

in contributing to increased flows of trade and investment among Asian and African countries.

C. SOCIO-CULTURAL RELATIONS

1. **Fostering** greater people-to-people contacts so as to enrich civil society and good governance as well as ensure that cooperation development reaches the different levels of society in countries in Asia and Africa;
2. **Enhancing** dialogue among civilizations, including interfaith dialogues, with a view to promoting peace and development through mutual understanding and tolerance among societies;
3. **Promoting** mutual understanding of diverse cultures and societies through *inter alia* cultural exchanges, preserving and restoring the cultural heritage of our peoples and the establishment of a Cultural Dialogue Forum;
4. **Advancing** youth, gender equality, education, science and technology, with a view to enhancing the capacity of human resources, overcoming illiteracy and improving the quality of life;
5. **Fighting** against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and various other epidemics and communicable diseases through prevention, treatment and care which are based on the advancement of public community health, a coordinated and sustained global response, as well as greater availability of medicines at an affordable price;
6. **Enhancing** the role of the media in promoting the sharing of information and greater knowledge of the ways of life in Asian and African countries;
7. **Developing** a network among universities, libraries, research institutions and centers of excellence in Asia and Africa, including linkages with existing regional, inter-regional and international agencies, with a view to sharing and expanding the pool

of resources, skills and knowledge as well as developing mechanisms for scholarships and exchanges;

8. **Building** cooperation to improve environment protection, through *inter-alia*, responsible use of non-renewable natural resources, transfer of environmentally sound technology;
9. **Striving** for improved management and conservation of biodiversity while respecting and protecting the rights and socio-cultural practices of local communities;
10. **Advancing** efforts to create an emergency preparedness mechanism and early warning system concomitant with on-going efforts to better deal with and mitigate natural disasters.

We appreciate the efforts of several countries and organizations that conducted studies, as mandated by the Asian-African Sub-Regional Organizations (AASROC) Ministerial Working Group Meeting and AASROC II. We express our satisfaction with the deliberations of the Sub-Regional Organizations in also providing concrete recommendations to further our cooperation.

We welcome the efforts of the business community to promote closer economic and trade cooperation through the convening of the First Asian-African Business Summit. We look forward to continued progress and interaction between our business communities.

We acknowledge with appreciation the outcomes emanating from the Workshop on the Role of Women and Youth in Furthering Asia-Africa Cooperation as well as the Asian-African Symposium on Renewable Energy.

We welcome the generosity of the Provincial Government of West Java in providing a venue in Bandung, Indonesia, for the establishment of an Asian African Village in celebration of the mutual bond of friendship between Africa and Asia.

We note with appreciation the Co-chairmanship of Indonesia and South Africa, and the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for the Meeting by the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia.

**JOINT ASIAN-AFRICAN LEADERS' STATEMENT
ON
TSUNAMI, EARTHQUAKE AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS**

We, the Heads of State/Government of Asian and African countries, gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia on 22-23 April 2005, expressed our profound grief at the losses of lives and livelihood caused by the earthquake and tsunami disaster in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004.

We are cognizant that the earthquake and tsunami disaster is a strong reminder that our two continents are bound together, in that the impact of the devastation was jointly felt by the peoples in both continents.

We noted that this natural catastrophe had generated an unprecedented scale of international response, assistance and empathy. In this regard, we commended the leading role of affected countries and the valuable contributions of the international community, including the Asian-African countries, in addressing the recent earthquake and tsunami disaster by collectively assisting in emergency relief efforts as well as in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

We pledge to encourage the continued development of appropriate measures pertinent to disaster reduction, mitigation and management, which will be supportive of the outcome of the Special ASEAN Leaders Meeting on Aftermath of Earthquake and Tsunami held in Jakarta on 6 January 2005.

We also took note of the outcomes of various initiatives to address tsunami and other natural disasters, *inter alia* the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe; the Ministerial Meeting on Regional Cooperation on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements held in Phuket; the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Third AU Summit held in Addis Ababa; and other international conferences under the auspices of the United Nations, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg.

We realized that natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunami tidal waves respect no political borders and pose a major threat to all people as well as their livelihood and environment, as their unmitigated impact and aftermath undermines the progress of social and economic development.

We recognized the expertise and experience of countries in the Indian Ocean Rim and the Pacific Rim in addressing the problem of tsunami and earthquake disasters and therefore emphasized the urgent need to invest in the development of proactive, integrated, multi-hazard and multi-sectoral standby arrangements and early warning system to mitigate natural disasters in the Indian Ocean Rim.

To these ends, we are determined to:

1. Establish an integrated strategy for the development of a multi-nodal early warning system with mechanisms for preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response, with a view to minimizing casualties;
2. Establish and upgrade national early warning systems, including those that are based on community participation, while moving towards enhancing cooperation in the development of a coordinated regional system;
3. Explore ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of collective actions through consideration of possible rapid response capacities at the regional and international levels by *inter alia* establishing a standby arrangement for disaster relief and emergency response, creating networks for information exchange, establishing research and database centers, maximizing the use of the latest advances in science and technology, and developing strategies to reduce the risk and impact of natural disasters;
4. Reinforce efforts to create among all levels of Asian and African societies a culture of disaster risk reduction and empower those at risk to achieve protection against disaster impacts by way of enhancing capacity building, promoting public education and awareness as well as community participation in disaster prevention and mitigation;

5. Encourage greater interaction among experts from Asia and Africa in finding practical ways and means, as well as sharing best practices and experiences, on preparing Asian-African countries for the direct impact of disasters and possible secondary effects such as on public health and environmental crises;
6. Encourage the international community to continue efforts to provide disaster affected countries with technical and financial assistance, including in rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

We are determined that, harnessed within a spirit of compassion, sacrifice and endurance, our preparedness and capacity to proactively address the affects of tsunami, earthquake and other natural disasters will prevail to the future betterment of our peoples.

Jakarta, 23 April 2005



General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 June 2005

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session

Agenda items 45 and 55

**Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up
to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and
summits in the economic, social and related fields**

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

**Letter dated 8 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit the position paper of China on United Nations reform (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 45 and 55.

(Signed) **Wang Guangya**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of China to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 8 June 2005 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and English]

Position Paper of the People's Republic of China on the United Nations Reforms

2005/06/07

With the advent of a new century, international situation is undergoing profound and complex changes. Peace and development remain the themes of the times, but uncertain and unstable elements are on the rise. We are faced with rare opportunities as well as grave challenges to realize enduring peace and common development of human society.

Against the backdrop of in-depth development of globalization and increasingly closer interdependence of states, global threats and challenges have become more diverse and interconnected. All threats, new or old, "soft" or "hard", direct or indirect, should be treated with equal seriousness and emphasis without partiality. All countries should make concerted efforts to deepen understanding through contacts, enhance trust through dialogues, and promote cooperation through communications, so as to cope with threats and challenges, especially to eliminate their root causes, by collective action.

The United Nations plays an indispensable role in international affairs. As the most universal, representative, authoritative inter-governmental international organization, the UN is the best venue to practice multilateralism, and an effective platform for collective actions to cope with various threats and challenges. It should continue to be a messenger for the maintenance of peace, and a forerunner for the promotion of development. A reformed UN with a bigger role to play will serve the common interests of humanity.

China welcomes the report of the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, UN Millennium Project Report and the comprehensive report of the UN Secretary-General, all of which put forward some useful and feasible approaches and proposals for the rejuvenation and reform of the UN. China is ready to work with all other parties to push for positive results of UN reforms and success of the summit in September.

China maintains that UN reforms should observe the following principles:

- Reforms should be in the interest of multilateralism, and enhance UN's authority and efficiency, as well as its capacity to deal with new threats and challenges.
- Reforms should safeguard the purposes and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, especially those of sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful resolution of conflicts and strengthening international cooperation, etc.
- Reforms should be all-dimensional and multi-sectoral, and aim to succeed in both aspects of security and development. Especially, reforms should aim at reversing the trend of "UN giving priority to security over development" by increasing inputs in the field of development and facilitating the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Reforms shall accommodate the propositions and concerns of all UN members, especially those of the developing countries. Reforms should be based on democratic and thorough consultations and the most broadly-based consensus.
- Reforms should proceed gradually from tackling more manageable problems to thornier ones and be carried out in a way that will maintain and promote solidarity among members. For those proposals on which consensus has been reached, decision may be made promptly for their implementation; for important issues where division still exists, prudence, continued consultations and consensus-building are called for. It is undesirable to set a time limit or force a decision.

I. Development Issues

Development is the common pursuit of people from all countries and bedrock for a collective security mechanism and the progress of human civilization. Poverty, diseases, environmental degradation are also grave challenges to the international community. Serious attention must be given to the needs of developing countries, with a view to achieving coordinated, balanced and universal development around the world.

1. Poverty

- To eliminate poverty, an urgent priority is to facilitate the implementation of the MDGs. This should become the focus of UN reforms and the September summit.
- We should steer globalization toward balanced development, and strengthen developing countries' position for equal participation and decision-making in international affairs.
- China supports developing countries' efforts to promptly formulate and implement comprehensive national strategies in light of their own national conditions for the realization of MDGs. The international community should provide necessary assistance to support these efforts.
- International development assistance should be provided in a way that takes into full consideration the national conditions of developing countries, and increases the recipient countries' autonomy and participation in this process for better results.
- China is in favor of the Secretary-General's recommendations of a timetable for increasing Official Development Assistance(ODA) to 0.7% of national GDP, and believes that it is necessary to draw detailed implementation plans and set up a monitoring and assessing mechanism.
- China supports international efforts to explore innovative resources as a useful supplement to ODA, which should continue to play a major role.
- We shall reform and improve the international financial system to make it consistent with the principle of equality and mutual benefit, and monitor, and guide rational flows of international capital to fend off financial crises.
- We should establish and improve an open and fair multilateral trading system, based on full consideration of the interests of developing and new members, and eliminate agricultural subsidies and substantially reduce tariff and non-tariff trade barriers as soon as possible in accordance with the mandate provided by the Doha Declaration.
- The Chinese side supports efforts to promote an agreement on the modality of negotiations at the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in accordance with the July 2004 approximation and the mandate provided by

the Doha Declaration, with a view to achieving an early completion of the Doha round and making it a genuine "development round".

- The developed countries should reduce and forgive, in real earnest, debts owed to them by developing countries, so that more capital will be available for development.
- We should encourage and strengthen public-private partnerships and mobilize more resources to promote economic growth and eliminate poverty.
- China supports to strengthen South-South cooperation, including sharing experience, expanding areas of cooperation and mutual assistance for mutual benefit, in order to enhance capacity building for development.

2. Disease

- All countries should promptly implement the UN resolutions 58/3 and 59/27 related to "enhancing capacity-building in global public health", put public health development in the context of their own development plans and activities, establish scientific and standardized public health systems, and improve the monitoring, prevention, control, treatment and reporting networks for contagious diseases. The developed world should help the developing countries in this regard.
- Relevant agencies operating within the UN system should consider incorporating public health into their activities, programs and plans, give greater support to all countries in strengthening public health capacity and promote international cooperation.
- We should strengthen the guiding and coordinating role of the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations in disease prevention and treatment. China is in favor of more resources being channeled for the WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network.
- We should make further efforts to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS. The immediate priority is to speed up the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/ AIDS within the existing cooperation framework. The developed countries shall honor their commitments through the provision of more financial and technical support to the developing countries in the prevention and treatment of HIV /AIDS.

- Currently there is no universally recognized standards to define whether contagious diseases pose a threat to international peace and security. Given that the Security Council's main function is to deal with issues that pose grave threats to international peace and security, it is inadvisable for it to repeat the work of other agencies.

3. Environmental Issues

- China stands for a scientific concept of development encompassing, inter alia, incorporating sustainable development and environmental protection into national development strategy and coordinating relations between economic, social development and environmental protection.

- Countries ought to engage in international cooperation for sustainable development according to the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, focusing on helping developing countries cope with environmental challenges effectively, especially such urgent issues as water scarcity, urban air pollution, ecological degradation and desertification. Developed countries ought to honour their commitments through technological transfer and provision of financial support aimed at capacity-building of developing countries.

- Sustainable development is the most effective response to global climate change. The international community should give serious consideration to the immediate needs and challenges of countries when formulating policies on energy, climate change and other related issues.

- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change provides an fundamental and effective framework for international cooperation in response to climate change. Obligations for 2008-2012 provided for in the Kyoto Protocol, including reduction in emission of greenhouse gases, transfer of know-how to developing countries, financial support and assistance in areas such as capacity-building should be fulfilled in real earnest.

- Developed countries should take the lead in adopting measures to reduce emission after 2012 in continued compliance with the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities. Meanwhile, the international community may explore a more pragmatic and flexible mechanism, promote international technical cooperation and enhance international capacity to cope with climate change.

- China is in favor of stepping up coordination and cooperation among existing environmental protection institutions and integrating resources for higher efficiency and better coordinated policies. China is open to related recommendations aimed at achieving the afore-mentioned goals.

4. Natural Disaster

China supports the establishment of worldwide early warning systems for all natural disasters at an early date, supports the strengthening of coordination and cooperation for emergency humanitarian assistance and disaster reduction at the national, regional and international levels.

II. Security Issues

We endorse the Secretary-General's proposal concerning collective action against security threats and challenges. It is consistent with China's proposal for a new security concept that features "mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination". To establish an effective, efficient and fair collective security mechanism, the key lies in adhering to multilateralism, promoting democracy and rule of law in international affairs, sticking to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, strengthening the authority and capability of the UN and safeguarding the centrality of the Security Council to the collective security system.

1. War and Conflict

- Inter-state conflict should be addressed through peaceful negotiation and consultation on an equal footing in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

- Internal conflicts are complex. Whether they threaten world peace and security needs to be judged on a case-by-case basis. The resolution of internal conflicts should mainly rely on the efforts of the people of the State. External support should be given with caution and responsibility in compliance with the UN Charter and international law and should combine political and diplomatic measures with a prudent and responsible attitude to encourage and facilitate the resolution of problems through consultation and negotiation between the conflicting parties.

2. Counter-terrorism

- China stands for and supports the fight against terrorism in all forms and manifestations. International counter-terrorism efforts should give full play to the UN's leading and coordinating role, address both the root causes and symptoms and avoid politicization and double standards.
- China supports a global comprehensive strategy against terrorism to be formulated as soon as possible and endorses the five pillars proposed by the Secretary-General as the foundation of such strategy.
- China supports further improvement of the existing counter-terrorism conventions and legal framework. Countries ought to consider early signing and ratifying the existing international counter-terrorism conventions and reach agreement as soon as possible on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in a cooperative and constructive spirit.
- China hopes for a consensus on the definition of terrorism. The definition may draw on, as appropriate, the existing international conventions and related provisions of Security Council resolutions.
- Member States and civil society must comply with the UN Charter and relevant norms of international law when participating counter-terrorism cooperation.
- Acts of violation against human rights that arise in counter-terrorism activities should be addressed by fully utilizing the existing mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, conventional institutions and supervision mechanism of international humanitarian law. At present, there is no need to set up a new mechanism.
- China supports the strengthening of functions of the Counter-Terrorism Commission of the Security Council and the expansion of the mandate of its Executive Directorate, especially the reinforcement of developing countries' capacity against terrorism and the establishment of a capacity building trust fund for this purpose.
- China believes it necessary to appoint a UN coordinator for counter-terrorism affairs.

3. Disarmament and Non-proliferation

- China has always stood for the comprehensive prohibition and thorough destruction of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and opposed any forms of proliferation of WMD and their delivery systems. China has been actively promoting the international nuclear disarmament process.

- All nuclear weapon states should conclude a treaty on non-first use of nuclear weapons. They should also commit themselves unconditionally to not using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon countries or regions and conclude a binding international legal instrument in this regard.

- The international community should take effective measures in real earnest to maintain and strengthen the universality and authority of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). All signatories should adopt a constructive attitude and a balanced view towards the three major goals of the Treaty.

- China supports the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and hopes that the Treaty will come into effect at an early date. China will maintain its moratorium on nuclear tests and work for the early ratification of the Treaty.

- China supports the early launch of negotiation on the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty on the basis of a balanced program of work to be agreed at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva.

- China supports the important role played by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in preventing nuclear weapon proliferation and promoting peaceful use of nuclear energy in accordance with the purposes of its Statute. Under the current circumstances, it is necessary to discuss, through international cooperation and consultation, how to further strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime, which includes such an important issue as how to take appropriate measures to further strengthen the effectiveness of IAEA safeguards. China stresses the importance of IAEA Additional Protocol and hopes to see the strengthening of its universality.

- China supports and actively participates in multilateral efforts aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and takes a positive attitude towards the immediate resumption of negotiation on a verification protocol of the Convention. China

supports the conclusion of a new biological security protocol by the State Parties to the Convention through negotiations so as to classify dangerous biological agents and establish binding international standards for the export of agents of this kind.

- China is in favor of strengthening the universality of the BTWC and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

- The States Parties to the BTWC should observe the consultation, cooperation and investigation mechanism of the Convention, which is a main means to deal with the alleged use of biological weapons. The Secretary-General mechanism has its own historical background and scope of application. If most States Parties agree, it may be completely reviewed through multilateral negotiations.

- China encourages all States Parties to submit information on confidence-building measures as required by the Review Conference of the BTWC.

- Countries that have chemical weapons should accelerate their efforts to destroy their complete storage of chemical weapons, old chemical weapons and chemical weapons abandoned in other countries. The verification mechanism of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) generally functions well. The States Parties can address concerns for breach through mechanisms of clarification, consultation and cooperation. If material breach happens, the Conference of the States Parties or the Executive Council may call the attention of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council to that question.

- China opposes the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, supports the strengthening of the current international non-proliferation regime and calls for the resolution of proliferation issues within the framework of international law by political and diplomatic means. Any non-proliferation measures should contribute to international and regional peace, security and stability. Like many other nations, China is not in favor of the interceptive measures taken by the Proliferation Security Initiative beyond the international law.

- The prevention of weaponization of outer space and any forms of arms race in outer space conduces to global strategic stability and promotes the process of arms control and disarmament. The international community should attach great importance to this and take vigorous and effective measures to forestall

this danger. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva should promptly set up an ad hoc committee for the negotiations and conclusion of relevant international legal instruments or work toward the objective of plugging the loopholes in the current legal regime of outer space and effectively preventing the weaponization of outer space and any forms of arms race in outer space.

- The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons plays an important role in addressing the humanitarian concerns arising from war. China has always actively participated in all work related to the Convention. China hopes that the Protocol on the Explosive Remnants of War will come into effect at an early date and be implemented in real earnest. China will continue to support and participate in the work of Group of governmental Experts of the Convention; hoping progress will be made in related work.

- China supports the international community's efforts in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and supports the negotiation for the conclusion of an international instrument on "marking and tracing of the illicit small arms and light weapons". The illicit trade in small arms involves many factors such as disarmament, security, development and humanitarianism and should be addressed through a comprehensive and appropriate approach. In this regard, states shall take on the primary responsibilities and strengthen coordination and cooperation, and the UN should continue to play a leading role.

4. Organized Crime

- China supports the enhancement of international and regional cooperation to crack down on transnational organized crimes. Developed countries should fulfil greater obligations of providing resources.

- China hopes to see effective implementation of international conventions on combating transnational organized crimes and corruption.

- The UN Office on Drugs and Crime should strive to help countries comply with the conventions.

- Provided that the existing international conventions concluded at the UN are effectively implemented, China does not object to the negotiation and conclusion of necessary new international conventions within the UN framework.

5. Prevention and Mediation

- China supports the establishment of the "prevention culture" by the UN and larger input into conflict prevention and mediation, especially the improvement of mechanisms and measures such as early warning and fact-finding mission.
- The Member States should give full play to the leading role of the Security Council and support the Secretary-General's authorized good offices and mediation.

6. Sanctions

- China has always maintained that sanctions should be applied with prudence on the precondition that all peaceful means have been exhausted. Once the Security Council decides to impose sanctions, all countries are obliged to comply strictly.
- China is in favor of improving the sanctions mechanism of the UN, setting a strict criterion, making it well focused, setting explicit time limits and minimizing the possibility of humanitarian crisis arising from sanctions and its impact on the third country. The committees on sanction should regularly evaluate the humanitarian impact of sanctions.
- The international community should help developing countries build capacity for sanctions implementation.

7. Use of force

- Peaceful settlement of international disputes and non-use of force in international relations is an important principle of the UN Charter and a basic norm of international law. China consistently stands for settlement of international disputes by peaceful means and opposes the threat or use of force in international relations.
- We are of the view that Article 51 of the Charter should neither be amended nor reinterpreted. The Charter lays down explicit provisions on the use of force, i.e. use of force shall not be resorted to without the authorization of the Security Council with the exception of self-defense under armed attack. Whether an urgent threat exists should be determined and handled with

prudence by the Security Council in accordance with Chapter 7 of the Charter and in light of the specific situation.

- Given the varying causes and nature of crises, it is both unrealistic and hugely controversial to formulate a "one -fits-all" rule or criterion on the use of force. Whether to use force or not should be decided by the Security Council in light of the reality of conflicts on a case-by-case basis.
- The Security Council is the only body that can decide the use of force. Regional arrangements or organizations must obtain Security Council authorization prior to any enforcement action.

8. Peacekeeping

- UN peacekeeping operations should comply with the UN Charter and all the basic principles that are proven effective, including neutrality, consent of parties concerned and non-use of force except for self-defense, etc.
- China supports the enhancement of the UN's peacekeeping capacity and welcomes the Secretary-General's proposal on the establishment of strategic reserves and civilian police standby capacity. China hopes that the Secretariat will specify and clarify the many aspects of the proposal as required by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping of the General Assembly. To establish a new mechanism entails cautious and thorough consideration so as to ensure its feasibility and effectiveness. Resources should be consolidated and limits of capacity respected and potential of the existing mechanisms fully tapped.
- The limited UN resources on peacekeeping should be rationally and effectively utilized. The UN may provide support, where necessary, to peacekeeping operations conducted by regional organizations in Africa.
- China supports stronger cooperation between the UN and regional organizations for better coordination and full utilization of each other's advantages. Peacekeeping operations undertaken by regional organizations should comply with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

9. Peacebuilding

- China supports the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission. The responsibilities of the Commission should focus on assisting the planning of the transition from conflict to post-conflict reconstruction and coordinating international efforts. China endorses the Secretary-General's view that the

Commission is largely an advisory body without early warning or monitoring function.

- The Commission will be responsible mainly to the Security Council, which is in the interest of its efficiency and effectiveness. China also supports the Economic and Social Council's full participation in the Commission's work.
- The Secretariat should follow the principles of efficiency and effectiveness in setting up the Peacebuilding Support Office.

III. Rule of Law, Human Rights and Democracy

1. Responsibility to Protect

- Each state shoulders the primary responsibility to protect its own population. However, internal unrest in a country is often caused by complex factors. Prudence is called for in judging a government's ability and will to protect its citizens. No reckless intervention should be allowed.
- When a massive humanitarian crisis occurs, It is the legitimate concern of the international community to ease and defuse the crisis. Any response to such a crisis should strictly conform to the UN Charter and the opinions of the country and the regional organization concerned should be respected. It falls on the Security Council to make the decision in the frame of UN in light of specific circumstances which should lead to a peaceful solution as far as possible. Wherever it involves enforcement actions, there should be more prudence in the consideration of each case.

2. International Criminal Court

- China supports the establishment of an International Criminal Court characterized by its independence, impartiality, effectiveness and universality, capable of punishing the gravest international crimes.
- In view of some deficiencies in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court which may hinder the just and effective functioning of the Court, China has not yet acceded to the Statute. But we still hope that the Court will win the confidence of non-Contracting Parties and wide acceptance of the international community through its work.
- The Security Council should act with prudence as to whether to refer a certain situation to the International Criminal Court.

3. The International Court of Justice

- China is in favor of strengthening the role of the International Court of Justice, improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency. The right of each country to choose freely peaceful means to settle disputes should be respected.

4. Human rights

- China is in favor of and supports the reform of UN human rights bodies. The essence of the reform is depoliticizing human rights issues, rejecting double standards, reducing and avoiding confrontation and promoting cooperation, so as to gear more resources to human rights technical cooperation projects and countries' human rights capacity building.

- Equal importance should be given to the economic, social and cultural rights on the one hand and the civil and political rights on the other. Emphasis on one category of human rights to the neglect of the other should be redressed.

- The UN Commission on Human Rights has played an important role in the area of international human rights. Its role and contribution should not be denied.

- The UN human rights bodies must abide by the principle of equitable geographical distribution in their composition to ensure broad representation. To have a small "Human Rights Council" to replace the Commission may not possibly overturn the serious "credit deficit" in the human rights area. It is necessary to conduct serious discussions on ways to improve the work of UN human rights agencies.

- China agrees to the global program to equip United Nations inter-agency country teams to work with Member States to bolster their national human rights promotion. The "country teams" should respect the sovereignty and laws of Member States, give full consideration to the actual needs of Member States in the human rights area and take the capacity building of Member States as the objective. An annual report on the work of the "country teams" should be submitted for the deliberations of Member States.

- China supports the High Commissioner for Human Rights in playing a more active role in the UN system within his/her term of reference. The Security

Council and the proposed Peacebuilding Commission can invite, if needed, the High Commissioner to participate in relevant deliberations.

- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should be granted adequate resources to strengthen its capability to perform its functions. Meanwhile, its funds should be used more efficiently. The composition of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights should better reflect the principle of geographical equality so as to win broader support of Member States.

- China is in favor of reforming the current reporting and reviewing system so as to avoid redundancy of various treaty bodies' work and lighten the burden on Contracting Parties. A working code should be formulated for treaty bodies to strengthen communication and dialogue with Contracting Parties.

5. The proposed "Democracy Fund"

- The Secretary-General should first give explanations of the source, rules of use, and assessment procedure of the proposed "Democracy Fund" for the benefit of further discussions.

- China disagrees with the classification of countries into "democratic" and "non-democratic" nations.

IV. Strengthening the UN

1. The UN General Assembly (UNGA)

- The General Assembly is an important body of democratic decision-making. China is in favour of enhancing its efficiency and its decision-making capability through reforms.

- China favours the adoption of a comprehensive package of reforms to revitalize the General Assembly. We are open to proposals from any quarter.

- China favours streamlining and optimizing the UNGA agenda. Each year, UNGA may hold discussions on some major substantive issues of interest to various parties, the developing countries in particular. The unnecessary items can be removed from the agenda on a year-by-year basis and in a balanced way.

- China values the constructive role played by the civil society in international affairs, and is ready to continue discussions on setting up an interactive mechanism between UNGA and the civil society. Participation of the civil society in the work of UN should not alter the Organization's inter-governmental nature, nor should it hamper its working order and efficiency.

2. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

- China welcomes and supports the reforms of the UN in economic and social fields, and is of the view that the reforms should comply with the orientations, principles, objectives and emphasis defined by the relevant UNGA resolutions, and should be government-led.

- The work in economic and social fields should aim at implementing the Millennium Development Goals and decisions made at other major UN summits and conferences and focus on financial assistance, technology transfer, capacity building, market access, and poverty alleviation with a view to maintaining the continuity and coordination of the policies of international economic cooperation and development, and implementing the UN economic and development agendas in a comprehensive, coordinated and balanced manner.

- China is in favour of turning ECOSOC into a high-level development forum for reviewing trends in international development cooperation and playing a coordinating role.

- China supports the leading normative and strategy-setting role of ECOSOC in mapping out a global development agenda.

- China favours holding an annual ministerial meeting to assess the progress made towards agreed development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals, and to discuss other development issues of interest to developing countries.

- China endorses closer coordination between ECOSOC and Bretton Woods system, WTO, UNCTAD and other UN development agencies.

- China supports the important role by ECOSOC in assessing famines, epidemics and major natural disasters and promoting collective responses to them.

3. The Security Council

- The reform of the Security Council is multifaceted covering such important issues as enlarging the Council's membership, increasing efficiency and improving working methods. The reform of the Security Council should apply the following principles.
- The reform should be conducive to enhancing the authority and efficiency of the Council and strengthening its capacity to deal with global threats and challenges.
- Increasing the representation of developing countries should be given priority. Developing countries, who account for more than two thirds of the UN membership, are seriously under-represented on the Security Council. This situation must be reversed.
- More countries, the small and medium-sized ones in particular, should be given more opportunities to enter the Council on a rotating basis to participate in its decision making process.
- The principle of geographic balance should be adhered to, with representation of different cultures and civilizations taken into consideration.
- All the regional groups should, first of all, reach agreement on reform proposals concerning their respective regions. The principle of regional rotation advocated by some countries also merits attention and consideration.
- Adhering to the principle of achieving consensus through consultation is in accordance with the spirit of the UN Charter. Its purpose is to accommodate the interests of all parties, especially the small and medium-sized countries. Only decisions thus made can win the broadest trust and support. China opposes the approach to set a time limit for the Council reform or force a vote on a consensus-lacking proposal.

4. Reform of the Secretariat

- China supports the efforts of the Secretary-General to make the Secretariat smaller but more efficient through reform of the management.
- China endorses a more simple and practical planning and budgetary system and a timely examination of the programs and events approved by UNGA so as to determine their relevance and ensure adequate resources for them.

- The recruitment of the staff of Secretariat should conform to the provisions of the UN Charter and take account of the principle of equitable geographical distribution and gender equality.

- China considers it necessary to further increase the transparency, credibility, efficiency and accountability of the Secretariat.

5. The Military Staff Committee

- China has serious reservations on abolishing the Military Staff Committee and is of the view that reform does not mean abolition. We may, through consultation, entrust the Military Staff Committee with new mandates in peacekeeping operations and security areas.
